

Why can't we come together to join and be a nation?
 And why can't it be that no one was prejudice or racist?
 And why can't we take out all the bad and use truth and kindness to fill it in?
 But if I could change it I wouldn't, because I'm going to leave that to God!•

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

DECISION TO LEAVE SENATE

• Mr. BREAUX. Mr. President, 35 years ago Lois and I, along with John Jr. and Bill Breaux, rented a U-Haul truck and headed north to Washington, D.C.

Lois tells the story about Bill the night before we left saying his prayers and concluding with "Good-bye God, we are moving to Washington." And, we had to pull John Jr. from under the house.

Well, today, John Jr. is 38 years old. Bill is 37, and Beth is married to Jeff Shepherdson and has three children—Anna Kate, 6, Campbell, 4, and C.J., 2 years old, and Julie, our youngest is now 28, works in New Orleans, and is here with us today.

I'll always remember that trip. My mother, who is deceased, and my father, followed us to D.C. We got there at night. I had never even visited Washington, so we drove right to the Capitol, and that evening the Marine Corps band was in concert on the Capitol steps. It was beautiful, and I thought they were playing just for us.

It's been a great 35 years—a few years as a staff person, 14 years as a Member of the Congress, representing southwest Louisiana, and it will be 18 years as a U.S. Senator, representing our State of Louisiana. I had the privilege of serving with five Governors and seven Presidents.

I have said for a year now that I would announce my decision whether to seek another term as U.S. Senator after the governor's election this year. I further said that I would make that announcement between November 15 and December 15. The difficulty of that decision is shown by the fact that today is December 15.

Lois and I have spent a lot of time discussing this decision—not formally, but, "what do you think?" type discussions. Although one time she actually sat up in bed, drew a line down the middle of a page, and listed the pros and cons of running—not surprisingly, they came out just about even.

We have received lots of advice—from my staff, from family and supporters here in Louisiana, and from around the country. Some of the letters from total strangers were so touching and heartfelt that we will forever treasure them.

My colleagues in the Congress, especially in the Senate, spoke to both Lois and me frequently with their thoughts and suggestions. Colleagues, actually from both sides of the aisle, urged me to run again, and for their encouragement and friendship I cannot begin to

say how much Lois and I appreciate them. My special appreciation also goes to TOM DASCHLE, HARRY REID and MARY LANDRIEU.

The citizens of Louisiana have greatly honored my family and me by allowing me to serve these 30-plus years as their Congressman and U.S. Senator. I can honestly say I enjoyed every moment and appreciated the opportunity that I have had to serve.

But there comes a time in every career when it is time to step aside, and let others step up and serve. And for my family and me that time has arrived. I will not seek re-election to the U.S. Senate.

Throughout my years in Congress I have been guided by a simple philosophy to make government work for everyone. I did not go to Washington to get nothing done other than argue about whose fault it was when we failed to make government work.

My sincere hope is that future Congresses will be able to pursue the center-out coalitions that I have advocated. It is my hope that cooperation and legitimate compromise between our political parties will not be seen as political failure, but rather as a means of building a stronger democracy that better serves our Nation.

To my wife Lois, we started this journey together many years ago and you have been there every step of the way—through the good times, and there were many, and through the not so good times, and there were a few. I could not have asked for a more helpful and supportive partner and friend. No one has been more lucky and fortunate than me in finding you.

To my staff here in Louisiana and in Washington, let me say I could not have accomplished anything without you. Our office has the greatest of reputations and all of you are truly part of our family—and will always be.

To my father Ezra and to Lois' mom, Doris, I say thank you for putting up with all the things we dragged you through, whether you wanted to be there or not. And to our children, John, Bill, Beth and Jeff, and Julia, I say thank you for being there—you have made us very proud every step of the way.

I am not leaving today. There is still a lot to get done this Congress. We have to get the energy bill passed, and I want to get started on legislation for the 40 million Americans who have no health insurance. I look forward to co-chairing with Governor-elect Kathleen Blanco the very important summit meeting on healthcare in Louisiana.

So this is not goodbye. After working more than half my life on issues important to Louisiana, I intend to continue that involvement in the future, but in a different capacity. But for now, thank you for the privilege and honor of serving Louisiana and our country.•

HONORING MARCIA COGGS

• Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today I want to remember Marcia Cogg, a

trailblazer in Wisconsin politics and a dear friend, who passed away in December.

Words cannot fully express the impact Marcia Cogg had on the lives of the people of Wisconsin. She was the first African-American woman elected to the State's legislature and was widely known as "the Conscience of the State of Wisconsin." Marcia also became the first African-American to sit on the State legislature's joint finance committee. Better housing, the best in public education, integration and human rights were just some of the causes Marcia championed during her 16 years in the Wisconsin Legislature.

First elected to the State assembly from Milwaukee in 1976, she forced the State to listen and pay attention to the troubling issues people in her district often faced. Civil rights, both in Wisconsin and throughout the world, were always at the forefront of her mind. Those who knew her were not surprised when she protested against apartheid in South Africa, even joining a demonstration outside that nation's Washington, DC, embassy in 1985.

I had the honor and privilege of working with Marcia on several issues, including a successful effort to make Martin Luther King Jr. Day a legal holiday in Wisconsin. We also joined together in fighting to establish a private cause of action for civil rights violations.

I am honored to have been associated with her and proud to have called her both a mentor and a friend. Marcia made an outstanding contribution to the lives of countless Wisconsinites and left a legacy that the people of my State will honor for many years to come.•

RETIREMENT OF PETTY OFFICER FIRST CLASS FREDERICA MONIQUE WILLIAMS

• Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a great American a true patriot: Hospital Corpsman, First Class Petty Officer Frederica Monique Williams, a resident of Selma, AL. Petty Officer Williams began her career as a deck Seaman Recruit at Naval Hospital Great Lakes as an administrative clerk. There she was selected for Hospital Corpsman "A" School at Great Lakes in October 1984, and upon graduation, she was assigned to Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune as a general duty corpsman where she refined her exceptional patient care and organizations skills, and developed into a strong leader and manager.

Petty Officer Williams served overseas on numerous occasions to include a tour at Naval Hospital Rota, Spain. While in Rota, she worked on a busy Labor and Delivery Unit. Once again her proven clinical experience, caring demeanor, organizational ability and "can-do" leadership style allowed her to excel. While assigned to National Naval Medical Center Bethesda, Maryland, Petty Officer Williams deployed

on the Hospital Ship USNS *Comfort*, T-AH-20, during Desert Shield/Desert Storm as member of the Surgical Directorate. There she cared for hundreds of reservists that sustained orthopaedic injuries. For her final assignment, she was assigned as the Administrative Department Head at the TRICARE Mid-Atlantic, Lead Agent Office Norfolk, VA.

In every assignment, First Class Petty Officer Williams met the challenge, and was rewarded with greater responsibilities and opportunities. Her talent for teaching and mentoring junior personnel about the delivery of quality patient care, customer service, and administrative attention to detail was instrumental in providing Navy Medicine, the fine cadre of hospital corpsman serving today. She is a hospital corpsman and leader who always put the welfare of her staff and patients first. Petty Officer William's performance reflects greatly on herself, the United States Navy, and our country. I extend my deepest appreciation to Hospital Corpsman First Class Petty Officer Frederica Monique Williams for her 20 years of dedicated military service and wish her and her family all the best in the years to follow. I am glad to hear that she expects to be returning to Selma. Our State will greatly benefit from her return.●

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. LEON OWENS

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I pay tribute and congratulate Mr. Leon Owens of Paducah, KY, on his dedication and leadership as president of Local 5-550 of Paper, Allied-Industrial, Chemical and Energy, PACE, Workers International at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant during the past 2 years.

Mr. Owens works at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Paducah, KY, where he has demonstrated his caring and leadership for years. He was chosen by the more than 500 union members who work at that plant to be their voice. During his tenure as president, Mr. Owens fought for his fellow workers and led them through an important, but difficult, 5-month strike in 2003. His leadership on this issue helped to protect the jobs and interests of the people of Paducah.

Aside from this highly publicized event, Mr. Owens worked tirelessly on plant cleanup, worker health and economic development issues. He shared his expertise and time with me and my colleagues in Congress, testifying most recently at the Energy Committee field hearing in Paducah in December and at a hearing here in November.

Mr. Owens also serves on the Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health which advises the Secretary of Health and Human Services on the implementation of NIOSH's responsibilities under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act. This important and complicated issue is just another example

of Mr. Owens's dedication to the workers in Paducah.

The working people of Kentucky are fortunate to have had the leadership of Mr. Owens. His example of dedication, hard work and compassion should be an inspiration to all throughout the Commonwealth.

Thank you, Leon, for your leadership during a difficult period of history for the Paducah Plant. You have shown fortitude and compassion and I have sincere appreciation for your work. I wish you and your family the best.●

THE STATE BANK OF LINCOLN CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

● Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, as the Senate convenes for its first session of the new year, I would like to call attention to a milestone reached 4 days ago by a financial institution with a long history in Lincoln, IL: the State Bank of Lincoln.

On Friday, January 16, 2004, the State Bank of Lincoln celebrated the completion of 100 years of financial service to the community of Lincoln and the people of Logan County. The bank first opened its doors for business on January 16, 1904, and it has operated as an independent bank ever since.

When the bank began to serve the people of Lincoln, it had \$50,000 in starting capital. By the end of its first year, the bank's assets had nearly doubled to \$93,000. That growth has continued through the years. Today, the bank has total assets in excess of \$170 million, serves the community in four locations, and has received an A+ rating from the Weiss Rating Service.

The State Bank of Lincoln has more than \$140 million in local deposits, and has provided more than \$100 million in loans to businesses, farmers, and other individuals, to help them achieve their goals and dreams. The bank also has invested in the bonds of local school districts, colleges, and public entities.

As the State Bank of Lincoln passes this important milestone in its history, I would like to extend my congratulations to all who have helped this financial institution serve the community for so many years, along with my best wishes for another 100 years of committed service to the people of Lincoln and Logan County.●

HONORING SPRING LAKE HEIGHTS, NJ MAYOR FRANK ADAMS

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Frank Adams who has served the Borough of Spring Lake Heights, NJ, for the past 32 years. Mayor Adams served as councilman with distinction for 12 years and has spent the last 20 years as the borough's mayor.

Besides admirably serving Spring Lake Heights for more than 30 years, Frank served as a member of the United States Naval Reserves and was called to active duty during the Korean War.

Mayor Adams is about to retire and he leaves behind an enviable legacy of public service to the community he loves, including accomplishments such as the construction of Ocean Road Park, the construction of the current Borough Hall, and the installation of the borough sewer system.

I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mayor Frank Adams, a man who has led by example, worked tirelessly for the benefit of all the residents of Spring Lake Heights, and will leave office having made an indelible mark on the borough.●

NOTICE: REGISTRATION OF MASS MAILINGS

The filing date for 2003 fourth quarter mass mailings is Monday, January 26, 2004. If your office did no mass mailings during this period, please submit a form that states "none."

Mass mailing registrations, or negative reports, should be submitted to the Senate Office of Public Records, 232 Hart Building, Washington, DC 20510-7116.

The Public Records office will be open from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on the filing date to accept these filings. For further information, please contact the Public Records office at (202) 224-0322.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE UNION DELIVERED TO A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS ON JANUARY 20, 2004—PM 59

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was ordered to lie on the table:

To the Congress of the United States:

Mr. Speaker, Vice President Cheney, Members of Congress, distinguished guests, and fellow citizens:

America this evening is a Nation called to great responsibilities. And we are rising to meet them.

As we gather tonight, hundreds of thousands of American service men and women are deployed across the world in the war on terror. By bringing hope to the oppressed, and delivering justice